

DIVERSE SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS: A SHELTER SELF-EXAMINATION

Food and/or Dietary Practices

1. How does our shelter provide or make accessible food for residents who have religious, cultural or ethnic needs? (For example: those who do not eat meat or do not eat pork or shellfish; cultures that traditionally eat beans, rice, or tortilla-type dishes...)
2. How would our shelter respond to the need of Jewish or Muslim residents who adhere to specific guidelines in food preparation? (For example: having a set of pots never used to cook pork or never using the same vessel to cook meat and dairy...)
3. Where in our community would Kosher or Halal (Muslim) foods be available?

Spiritual Practices

4. Where is there space in our shelter for individual meditation, for prayer rituals or other private worship practices?
5. In the Christmas season: how have we been sensitive to women and children who are not of the Christian faith? Have we provided an opportunity for Jewish or Muslim residents to tell us of feasts and seasons that are of importance to them?
6. How does our shelter provide opportunities for residents to attend worship services that may conflict with curfew rules?
7. What sacred texts are available in our shelter? Christian Bible? Jewish Bible? Qur'an?
8. How do our shelter advocates respond when a victim raises religious or spiritual concerns?
9. To what clergy/faith leader would we refer a Jewish resident? A Muslim? A Christian?